

TRIBUTE TO NICHOLAS BENSON

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, I would first like to acknowledge everything that the National Heritage Fellowship has meant to this country over the past 25 years. It has been a vital inspiration for those who practice traditional arts and Americans owe so much of our nation's artistic diversity to the Fellowship.

I also speak today to honor the achievements of Nicholas Benson. In Rhode Island, a place where there is no shortage of history, the contributions of Mr. Benson's family stand out for their beauty, charm and authenticity. Mr. Benson oversees a stone carving shop that has been in his family for three generations and has been operating continuously for over three hundred years.

Thankfully, the contributions of Nicholas Benson and his family have not been limited to Rhode Island. From the Civil Rights Memorial in Montgomery, Alabama to the World War II Memorial here in Washington, DC, his work is a part of our history. In a country where so much of our history is recorded through art, I am reminded of something John Adams wrote to his wife Abigail in 1780,

"I must study politics and war, that our sons may have liberty to study mathematics and philosophy. Our sons ought to study mathematics and philosophy, geography, natural history and naval architecture, navigation, commerce and agriculture in order to give their children a right to study painting, poetry, music, architecture, statuary, tapestry and porcelain."

Nicholas, in producing three generations of outstanding artists, your family has surpassed even the dreams of John Adams himself. I would like to congratulate you once again. It is my hope that this fellowship allows you to further your craft and to continue the work of your family. You are an inspiration to us all.

IN HONOR OF BERGEN TECHNICAL SCHOOL'S PARTNERSHIP WITH STATE FARM TO PROMOTE SAFE TEEN DRIVING

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the faculty, staff, and students at Bergen Technical High School who have partnered with State Farm to promote safe teen driving.

Far too many young people lose their lives senselessly to motor vehicle accidents, largely because of their youth and inexperience behind the wheel. In fact, 14 percent of all motor vehicle deaths are teen drivers and car crashes is the number one killer of teens today. State Farm has developed a phenomenal program called Project Ignition, committed to reversing this trend and saving teens on the road. This popular program partners with local schools to develop ad campaigns to promote safe driving in ways that really speak to young people.

Bergen Technical High School is one of only 25 schools nationwide chosen to participate in this program. Their visual graphic design pro-

gram is creating a series of public service announcements for television, posters, and more to speak to teens about the importance of driving responsibly and safely. Streetwise, the name of their program, promotes six character education pillars—respect, responsibility, citizenship, fairness, caring, and trustworthiness—in ways that really resonate with their target audience.

Today, the participants in this innovative program celebrated their work while trying to break the Guinness Book of World Records record for the longest message/graffiti scroll using their Streetwise message. They will be joined by fellow students from other Bergen County High Schools and supportive parents and citizens throughout the County. All of Bergen County is proud of their efforts.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF VILLA JULIE COLLEGE

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Villa Julie College in Stevenson, Maryland on its Founder's Day which recognizes the accomplishments of the remarkable women who helped establish the College and honors those who have since contributed and continue to contribute to Villa Julie's vitality.

Villa Julie has developed from a one-year women's secretarial college into a four-year, co-educational liberal arts institution offering career-focused Bachelor's and Master's degrees in a variety of programs. It has transitioned from a local commuter college to a regional residential institute of higher learning. Enrollment has increased more than 45 percent in 7 years; revenues have doubled and the endowment has increased by more than \$11 million since 2000.

Today Villa Julie is Maryland's third largest independent college and it has earned recognition as a "best value" by several national news sources including U.S. News and World Report which ranked it in the top quarter for its classification. Villa Julie's distinct approach of blending liberal arts with a career focus continues to attract terrific students from around the region. Students have benefited significantly from Career Architecture, an award-winning process developed to assist them in building a career plan based on individual values, skills, and interests. More than 70 percent of incoming freshmen over the past six years say the College's reputation of preparing students for rewarding careers was "very important" in their decision to attend.

As the College continues to expand, it has stayed true to its mission of increasing access to higher education. Student surveys indicate that about 60 percent of Villa Julie students are the first in their family to attend college.

Madam Speaker, Villa Julie is a special place. The College, its founders and supporters can take enormous pride in how it has successfully adapted over time and in the difference it has made in the lives of so many in this area. I take this opportunity on Founder's Day to congratulate Villa Julie for its commitment to higher education over the past 60 years.

TRAVEL BAN ON SYRIAN ACTIVIST RIAD SEIF

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the Syrian human rights activist Riad Seif. Mr. Seif is a former Member of Parliament and a prisoner of conscience held by the Syrian Government, one of hundreds like him who are prohibited from leaving Syria to see family, pursue education, or seek medical care. Mr. Seif desperately needs medical attention and should be allowed to leave Syria to seek this care.

I call upon the Syrian Government to immediately lift the travel ban against Mr. Seif and others who are prevented from leaving Syria because of their stand for freedom and human rights. Mr. Seif should be released to seek the medical care that he so urgently needs.

IN HONOR OF THE MILL CREEK FIRE COMPANY AND ITS LADIES' AUXILIARY; HONORING: JOSEPH H. MULLINS, SR., LAWRENCE MERGENTHALER, AND CATHERINE W. JENKINS

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to the Mill Creek Fire Company and its Ladies' Auxiliary for providing the people of Delaware with 80 years of outstanding service. The importance of emergency fire and medical services within our communities cannot be underscored enough. I am proud to represent a state that is home to such selfless and dedicated firefighters, EMTs, and service volunteers as those at the Mill Creek Fire Company here in Delaware.

The Mill Creek Fire Company was born from a tradition of strong community involvement and has kept that tradition alive through the years. The fire company had its humble beginnings in the Social Room of the Marshallton United Methodist Church back in 1927, when seven community members each chipped in one dollar to start the Mill Creek Fire Company Treasury. From that point on, it has steadily grown into a pillar of strength within the community. Residents within its 17 square mile response district have come to rely on the company not only for safety, but also for the social role it plays in bringing the community together. The Mill Creek Fire Company's unique, green fire trucks have become a source of pride, and serve as a reminder of the dedication and spirit which enable the company to excel.

On this special anniversary, I would like to recognize three individuals for their unprecedented dedication to the Mill Creek Fire Company; Joseph H. Mullins, Sr., Lawrence Mergenthaler, and Catherine W. Jenkins. They have each put forth tremendous effort to make the organization what it is today.

Joseph Mullins joined the company in 1938, from which point he went on to serve as Chief

for 25 years and president for two terms. Lawrence Mergenthaler joined the company in 1953 and assumed the position of Chief after Joseph Mullins in 1976. He has served several terms on the board of directors and among his many accomplishments, he was voted to be a fireman of the year. Catherine Jenkins was president of the Ladies' Auxiliary for 4 years, served on the board of directors, and still remains active in many community organizations.

This brief list of distinctions does not do these honorees justice for all the hard work and sacrifices they have made for the ends of bettering our community. Their efforts will inspire others and I am happy to call attention to the positive influence they have had throughout Delaware and beyond.

I would also like to commend the Mill Creek Fire Company and its Ladies' Auxiliary for its 80 years of exceptional service. The bravery and hard work of all those involved with this outstanding fire company are responsible for making Delaware a safer place to live.

TRIBUTE TO ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND AND PINNEBERG, GERMANY

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rockville, Maryland and Pinneberg, Germany on the 50th anniversary of their outstanding "Sister City" relationship.

In 1983, the first official delegation from Pinneberg visited Rockville, and participated in a White House ceremony commemorating the 300th anniversary of German immigration to the United States. Over the past 50 years, individuals and groups from both cities, including police officers, students, politicians, sports teams, choruses and concert bands, have participated in exchanges that have left both sides richer in knowledge and understanding. I know these participants will never forget their experiences and the lessons they have learned from each other.

We here in Rockville and our friends in Pinneberg should be proud that our cities were among the first in the United States and Germany to engage in this relationship, after its proposal in 1956 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower as part of a people-to-people citizen diplomacy initiative. Our sister city relationship is a cornerstone of a program that for many years has worked to achieve peace and prosperity through cultural understanding and exchange among countries all over the world. Even during turbulent times, our two cities have reached towards one another in friendship and set an example for others to follow.

In celebration of this anniversary, a delegation from Rockville, including its Mayor, Larry Giammo, visited Pinneberg this past June. This week, beginning on October 2nd, the City of Rockville will formally welcome a 40-member delegation from Pinneberg, including its current Mayor. They will spend time with our local elected officials, tour the City and other sights in Maryland, dedicate a commemorative plaque, and conclude the week's festivities with "An Evening of Celebration" in Rockville's new Town Center on October 7th.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Rockville, Maryland and Pinneberg, Germany for their meaningful and productive collaboration over the past 50 years. We all look forward to another 50 years of friendship between these two great cities.

TRIBUTE TO CORPORAL DAVID MCCONNELL

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Corporal David McConnell of Altoona, Pennsylvania. CPL McConnell is currently serving in Iraq as part of the United States Marine Corps. He has served our country since 2005 when he first enlisted in the Marine Corps.

Corporal McConnell was deployed to Iraq on December 31, 2006, initially serving as an Infantryman. He was stationed in Fallujah as part of the Regimental Combat Team 6 Security Platoon, where he acted as convey security. Promoted to corporal in August, McConnell is currently stationed in Fallujah to provide protection services for the team directing leader engagement with Iraqi diplomats.

A dedicated and enthusiastic leader, Corporal McConnell is committed to furthering the cause he believes so much in. He is proud of the work of his unit and believes that the contributions and sacrifices they have made are well worth it to be able to assist in expanding freedom in Iraq.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank and recognize David and the rest of our troops for their efforts in serving our military. He and his unit should be very proud of the work they are doing in Iraq and the sacrifices they have made for their country. Their courage and devotion do not go unnoticed, and they are all in our thoughts and prayers for a safe return home.

TRIBUTE TO JEFF PIGEON, WIBC, INDIANAPOLIS

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an icon of the Indiana airwaves, Jeff Pigeon. After serving Hoosiers for 27 years at WIBC in Indianapolis, IN, Jeff bid a bittersweet farewell this morning during his final broadcast.

Jeff Pigeon has never been anything but upbeat and positive and for nearly 20 years on the WIBC Morning News and that is how he helped Hoosiers wake up and start their day. It's hard to imagine WIBC or Indiana without him.

Jeff's energy touched the hearts of Hoosiers far beyond Indianapolis as people in Muncie, Anderson, Columbus, New Castle and areas throughout Indiana cherish Jeff and his ebullient personality.

His heart for people stretched beyond the airwaves and is attested to by his work for Crossroads Rehabilitation Center, Gleaners

Food Bank and the Indianapolis Police Department.

Jeff Pigeon started working at WIBC in 1981 as host of the 7 p.m.-midnight shift. He took over the morning drive-time show in 1988.

His radio background stretches across the country, from stations in Minneapolis, Denver and Chicago. An espouser of Midwestern values, Jeff graduated from the University of Illinois before launching his radio career.

Hoosiers of Eastern Indiana congratulate Jeff Pigeon on 27 great years of service to our State and a voice they have come to know, respect and love. He will be greatly missed.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF MASSACHUSETTS GOVERNOR JANE SWIFT

HON. JOHN W. OLVER

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Mr. OLVER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the contributions and achievements of Massachusetts Governor Jane Swift, a woman whose record of leadership in our State is matched by few.

When Jane Swift became Chief Executive of Massachusetts in April 2001, she became the first woman Governor of the Bay State, one of only five women Governors at the time, and one of only 19 women Governors in history. These numbers are far too low, and Governor Swift deserves credit for being a trailblazer and an inspiration to what hopefully will turn out to be many more women chief executives in the future.

During her tenure, Governor Swift oversaw a budget that had reached the \$23 billion mark, directed 13 cabinet agencies and executive divisions, and enacted numerous reforms. In policymaking as well as in example, she established herself as an advocate for women and families. Her efforts on behalf of foster children and working parents garnered praise across the political spectrum. And, when Governor Swift delivered twin girls while in office, she achieved yet another remarkable first.

Also while in office, Governor Swift continued her work as a strong supporter of the cultural development of our State, which included championing the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art. Her efforts to bolster Mass MoCA continue to be greatly appreciated by everyone who cares about the economic development of the north Berkshires.

Governor Swift counts 12 total years of official public service in her career. Elected to the Massachusetts State Senate at age 25, she was the youngest-ever woman member of the legislature. She also has spent many more years personally working in her community to create opportunity and improve the quality of life for local residents.

Today, Governor Swift serves on a number of key boards and steering committees, including the board of the Williamstown Elementary School Endowment and the Community Outreach Board of Mass MoCA. She remains active in politics and is engaged in a wide variety of public policy issues. Drawing on her diverse experiences, Governor Swift shares her perspectives as a sought-after public speaker, imparting wisdom to and inspiring the next generation of women and men leaders.